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Florida International University

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GIVE IN TO GIVING
Food drives, events make it easy

ALEXANDER MILLER
MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Beacon Staff

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, students will have the chance to get in the spirit of giving by participating in events and food drives.

Students who stay on campus will be offered a Thanksgiving dinner by the Residential Hall Association and the Student Government Association.

Dubbed “RHA and SGA Presents: Thanksgiving Dinner,” the event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 in the Graham Center Ballrooms in the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The dinner will be free for housing students and friends. Tickets are needed and can be found at the housing desks.

The event was put together by the RHA and funded by SGA, it cost $2.30.

Miguel Ovalles, RHA president for University Park Apartments, helped organize the event.

“We’re going to have come dians, we’re going to have dancers for entertainment and we’re going to have food,” Ovalles said.

The event will serve traditional Thanksgiving food, which is expected to run out as the night wears on.

There is also going to be a raffle and students who bring canned goods can participate. Prizes range from gift cards to Sports Grill, T.G.I. Friday’s, movies and video games.

At the end of the night, there will be a yet-unknown mystery grand prize for one lucky dinner guest.

Canned goods collected at the dinner will be donated to Camillus House, a local Miami charity who helps homeless people.

The event is aimed at international students who are not familiar with Thanksgiving, exposing them to the American holiday, according to Ovalles.

A lot of our residents can’t go home for Thanksgiving, so it’s always nice to have something for them where they can come and be with their family here at FIU,” Ovalles said.

For students at the Biscayne

THANKSGIVING, page 2

DONATIONS AND EVENTS
EVENTS
HMC Thanksgiving Dinner by SGA and RHA
Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
GC Ballrooms
Free tickets for students and guests at the housing desks

BBC The Impact Movement’s banquet
Nov. 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Wolf University Center Ballrooms
Free for students and the community

DONATIONS
HMC Goodson Center entrance, pit
Campus Life office, GC 2240
Women’s Center, GC 2200
Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
GC 245
University Park Apartments, Building A

BBC Wolf University Center Information Desk
Campus Life office, WUC 141
Women’s Center, WUC 256
Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
WUC 253

New program to launch, test new courses
MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

Beginning next semester, three new classes will let students learn how to better analyze social media, study global food production, and explore the dynamics of marine science. But in each class, students will be taught and graded by more than one professor.

Through the University’s new Quality Enhancement Plan, called “Global Learning for Global Citizens,” three new courses will be tested in Spring 2010, and students can take them as electives that will count toward their degrees.

The program is the newest addition by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization which accredits public universities in the southern U.S.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is required for the 2010 reaccreditation of the University. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recently added this program as a requirement for reaccreditation.

The three classes will be added to the University’s Core Curriculum, and incoming freshman for Fall 2010 will be required to take two classes that fulfill the “Global Learning” requirement, including one class to satisfy their UCC to meet graduation eligibility.

QEP, page 5

GIVING BACK
Food drives, events make it easy

TAGGING

STREET ART: Marissa Hill (top left), art major, works on a graffiti mural in the Graham Center piano room. Beginning on Nov. 3 until Nov. 12, the mural was a two-week project for Professor Gretchen Schramm’s Advance Drawing class. The assignment was to create a legal graffiti mural. The mural was covered the following morning.
Autiello made chief of staff, switches with Sanchez

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus announced Nick Autiello as the new chief of staff on Nov. 18.

Autiello, the deputy chief of staff, switched positions with Drew Sanchez, chief of staff.

Sanchez said the decision was due to “time commitments” on his schedule.

“The big issue was the payment and office hours,” Sanchez told Student Media.

Struggling to meet the hours, Sanchez said he and SGC-MMC advisor, Jose Toscano, discussed finding a way to meet minimum hours. Sanchez, however, rejected the notion.

“I didn’t feel comfortable with that,” Sanchez told Student Media.

The position of chief of staff is one of the highest paid positions in all student government. According to the Student Government Association constitution, a chief of staff can make up to 32 percent of what a

FOR THE CAUSE

FIU's Asian Student Union and Music Saves Lives put together an event called “Typhoon Benefit Relief Show” to raise money for the recent typhoon that hit the Philippines. Some artists included Krystie "Kry- towalina" Caraballo, Brand Name Punk and acoustic performances from members of the Asian Student Union.

TOP: Members of Tokyo Love Bots break dance to a variety of top hits.

LEFT: Juan “Nacho” Londono, lead singer of Arboles Libres, performs a song from their upcoming debut album.

Free banquet to feature Christian hip-hop, reggae

THANKSGIVING, page 1

Bay Campus, the Impact Movement, a campus ministry group located mainly at BBC, will be hosting a free banquet for students and the community on Nov. 25. The event will be held in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms at 6:30 p.m.

The Impact Movement is comprised of students whose goal is to take the Gospel to the community, the campus and the world.

“It hasn’t been difficult planning for the event and working with my club members has been great because they are cooperative,” said Impact leader Sterling Georges.

Georges said the banquet will include numerous forms of entertainment, including Christian rappers, spoken word poets, ministering, dancing and Christian hip-hop and reggae.

“We talk to everyone who is willing to hear us and produce leaders,” said Diana Laforest, Impact president.

Student organizations are also gearing up for food collection drives.

The Haitian Student Organization, in collaboration with the Omicron Theta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, will be collecting non-perishable food items in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

“We are obligated to take opportunities like this to give back,” said Bruno Phanord, HSO president.

Collection boxes for non-perishable food items will be placed at the Campus Life offices of both MMC and BBC, the Graham Center at MMC, the Wolfe University Center at BBC, the Women’s Center of both campuses, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services in both campuses, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services in both campuses, and in each of the housing quad buildings at MMC.

“We are where we are today because someone gave back to us,” Phanord said.

The HSO has held hurricane drives in the past, but it is the first time they are organizing a Thanksgiving drive.

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Anime club elects new president

Jorge Valens, Asst. News Director

After the president of FIU’s Anything Goes Anime Club resigned, members of the club voted to replace all sitting members on the club’s executive board, according to some members.

Nov. 19 meeting to replace all sitting members of the club’s executive board, according to some members. Luis Defana was appointed president of the club, replacing the sitting president, Chelsea Franco, formerly AGA’s vice president who became president after Pedro Cortes’ resignation.

Cortes, who was appointed president in 2008, voluntarily stepped down from the position in the aftermath of a recent assault case involving Cortes and AGA executive board member Carla Slon.

“I grew up with this club,” said Cortes, who has been a member of the club for almost six years. “When I say that this has been the source of my happiness for five or six years, I’m not joking.” Cortes added that his time as president has taught him how to run organizations and deal with people.

Cortes, who has been a member of the club for almost six years.

According to Student Government Association’s integrated marketing and communications director, James Richardson, said that AGA has had “one of the most active memberships on campus.”

According to OrgSync, a social networking site used by clubs and organizations, AGA has 58 members.

CSCO requires clubs on campus to use OrgSync.

Plan calls for bi-monthly meetings

SGC-MMC, page 2

president makes. The president’s salary is $10,000 each year.

A deputy chief of staff position was added last semester. The job is to assist the chief of staff and it is a non-paid position.

According to Sanchez, Antistello had already assumed many of the day-to-day responsibilities of the chief of staff position both inside and outside the office, including traveling.

“Everybody comes to him for meeting times,” Sanchez told Student Media. “He is the person in the office.”

Sanchez said he and his experience will still play a vital role in the cabinet, and he will be dedicated to the student services aspect while Antistello will be “taking care of everything else.”

“We always saw it as a team anyway, so it’s just a shift,” Sanchez said. At the same cabinet meeting, speaker of the senate, Helena Ramirez, announced a plan to have the senate from Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC meet bi-monthly.

“Every two months, we would be meeting with our counterparts to be aware of University-wide issues,” Ramirez said.

The plan is being implemented in both campuses by having each senate pass a resolution calling for it.

The MMC senate briefly brought up the resolution in their last Nov. 16 meeting, then tabled it for the next meeting.

The resolution makes reference to the call for unity between the campuses, prompted by the controversial Restructuring Resolution passed before-hand, which called for the two councils to remain separate due to “two different cultures at each campus,” states the text.

The resolution calls for a joint forum on a bi-monthly basis, “in person or via teleconference, to address issues preliminarily to the University as a whole.” Senators are scheduled to vote on the resolution on the Nov. 23 meeting.

Every two months, we would be meeting with our counterparts to be aware of University-wide issues.

Helen Ramirez, speaker of the senate

Student Government Association

Corrections

In the issue Nov. 18, the article titled “Groups to raise funds online,” the co-chairs of the United Way campaign are senior vice president of External Relations, Dr. Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and Ruth Hamilton, executive director of the Graduate Center.

The Auction and Recognition Event will be held on Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.
Students will mingle with official at ice cream social

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Students of all majors are in for a treat. The International Relations Association is inviting students to its Fall Ice Cream Social on Nov. 24 to meet with the University’s Diplomat in Residence Hilario “Lari” Martinez while eating some Ben & Jerry’s ice cream.

The social will take place in the Panther Square on Nov. 17.

Martinez will talk to students about career opportunities, internships, scholarships and fellowships available to them, and will explain what it’s like to be a diplomat in residence.

Each year, the U.S. Department of State assigns a senior foreign service officer to a certain university or school. Martinez is one of 16 senior diplomats to become diplomat in residence.

He has been the University’s diplomat in residence for the past three years, and as such, he is responsible for informing students about career opportunities throughout the region.

Martinez described what he does as “a pleasure in itself” in a previous article by The Beacon. He said he enjoys helping students find new and exciting opportunities and often spends his free time working with the locals.

Since his arrival at the University in 2006, Martinez has made a difference in the lives of several students.

“Lari has been an enormous asset to FIU because of his excellent education and experience in the U.S. Foreign Service,” said John Clark, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

According to Clark, Martinez has helped students win major national scholarships to top universities such as George Washington University, and has also helped students get internships with the U.S. Department of State.

Martinez has been a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State for 22 years. He immigrated to the United States from Havana, Cuba in the 1960s and was raised in Miami. The Cuban-American graduated from Duke University in 1972 with a degree in mathematics.

He then went to law school at the University of Florida, where he was managing editor of the Florida Law Review.

Martinez was the chief of the U.S. embassy in Lima, Peru, a department in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

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U.S. official to advise on students’ future goals

Martinez, page 4

In an article in the Hispanic Times, Martinez said he was the “object of curiosity” upon arrival in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“They couldn’t get over the idea that someone not even born in the U.S. can become the U.S. consul and represent the country overseas,” he said.

“It was a great lead to explain to a former Soviet-affiliated nation that just ended a bloody war sparked by ethnic tension that America is really a nation of nations, and with all the troubles it has, it should serve as an example of how so many people of different races, ethnic groups, and religions can live together and attempt to work out their differences peacefully.”

Martinez was not available for comment by the deadline despite several attempts by The Beacon.

New curriculum to focus on globalization

QEP, page 1

Current students will not be affected by this change.

“The goal is to enhance student learning so they become better global citizens,” said Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

“These classes are really interactive and not lecture-based in order to keep students active in learning to solve real-world problems, working in teams and engaging in self-reflection.”

There are no prerequisites for these interdisciplinary courses, which are modeled after the Honors College courses.

They are taught by teams of three professors in order for students to gain different perspectives on the same subjects. Since the classes are designed to be interactive, students will mainly work in groups.

The first class is “How We Know What We Know,” or IDS 3993, and will take place Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at the Modesto Maidique Campus. It will have a capacity of 56 students.

The course will be taught by Fred Blevens, professor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Ben Lauren, professor in the English Department, and George Pearson, a librarian at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We all have different perspectives but a shared interest in this topic,” Pearson said.

He said they will analyze how information is accessed and learn how to access it better, particularly in social media.

Their goal is to help students become more critical consumers, while assessing content in order to become more aware of the actions that affect their environment.

“The purpose is to try to teach students skills and raise awareness of how information works in the world across all different platforms,” Blevens said.

He said he hopes this class will help students become better researchers by giving them the skills that will be critical to the future of any career.

“International Nutrition, Public Health and Economic Development,” or IDS 3994, will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at MMC and will have a capacity of 56 students.

It will be taught by Mahadev Bhat, associate professor of Environmental Studies; Adriana Campa, associate professor at the Department of Diabetics and Nutrition, and Frederick Newman, professor of Healthcare Policy and Management.

Doscher said this course explores the relationships between health and nutrition, food production, population growth, the environment and economic development in different countries, “she said.

“Our Coastal Environment from the Bay to the World,” or IDS 3995, will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Academic One at BBC. It will have a capacity of 60 students.

The course will be taught by Peter Crumner, associate professor of Politics and International Relations; Hugh Gladwin, associate professor of Global and Socio-cultural Studies, and Rebecca Vega-Thurber, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences.

“In this class, we will incorporate themes about marine science and socio-economic issues surrounding marine science,” said Vega-Thurber. “We will focus on issues both local and coastal with an overall theme of Florida and South Florida.”

She said this course would be beneficial even to non-science majors because of the different topics it will cover, such as anthropology, sociology, literature, geography and law.

Students will learn how humans affect the coast and how the coast affects humans, and they will be encouraged to learn how other people think to gain an alternate perspective, she said.

The three new courses will be supplemented by co-curricular activities, which are still being planned but will likely include service-learning projects, lectures, tours, field trips and films.

Students will be able to get class credit for attending these activities, said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

“We are working closely with faculty members to ensure that even when courses are at full capacity, they won’t turn into lecture-based classes,” she said. “They will be using online technology in order to keep students active and engaged.”
While transparency still an issue, SGA makes notable achievements this semester

By ANA AROCHA
Staff Writer

While students struggle to find ways to pay for their ever-rising tuition, the presidents of some of the nation’s major private research universities are receiving steep increases in their compensation.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education’s annual executive compensation survey of the 2007-08 fiscal year, a number of university presidents at private institutions are raking in a 5.5 percent increase from the previous year.

Of the 419 universities included in The Chronicle’s survey, 110 schools awarded their presidents a package exceeding half a million dollars -- 25 of which are above the million dollar range. Only 62 presidents applied to private institutions, the study also shows that a growing number of public university presidents are also demanding hefty six-figure salaries.

This all comes at the heels of another increase in the economics of academia.

The previous year, the cost of attaining a university education rose 6 percent; exceeding inflation, wages, and, more importantly to the struggling college student, the financial aid that would help fund their education.

The other side of this problem is the dismal faculty salary increases in the past few years. The College and University Professional Association for Human Resources conducted a National Faculty Survey for the 2008-2009 academic year, which indicated that the median faculty salary increase was 3.7 percent, down from last year’s 4 percent increase.

So tuition is up, faculty salary is down and meanwhile the administration is swimming in money.

I was under the impression that the university is about the students and professors engaging in research to enhance their field of study. I thought the administration was there to serve the university, to make sure that it receives the proper funding and runs smoothly.

Apparently, I was way off: according to this trend among these collegues, the heart of the university is no longer its faculty and students. I can only hope FIU does not follow the same path.

This new “university” system seems to be purely a business arrangement where the university, its students and their parents, serve as customers, and the presidents and the administration is the fat man that signs the checks behind the safety of his big mahogany desk, banking in his victory over the system as his wallet grows ever more steadily.

The only slight, redeeming factor of the increased compensation is that the pay packages were set before the floor of the economy fell through last fall. Perhaps this year presidents will take pay cuts to assist the situation.

Fort Hood shooting mars Muslim beliefs

By CHRISTIAN R. BAUMAN
Staff Writer

Hectic and horrible were the first two words coming to the mind of Sergeant Eric Dupliss, stationed at Fort Hood on the day of the shooting. A friend had stormed into the room alarming him of the situation. Upon arrival to the shooting location, the duo offered assistance to the wounded.

People were in uniform struggling to keep to their feet and beer splashed in their bodies. Seeing the hurt was harsh, but entering the building proved to be more sobering sight for Sgt. Dupliss.

“… about 10 dead bodies totally shot to [expletive] and gone…”

One was shot in the head and a personal was shot in the back, by his body that was getting run over by his weapon, an FN 5.7 with about 16 30rd mags, about 10 of the 30rd mags…

It came to our knowledge later on that the blood was spilled over a case of Islamic extremism. And with Sept. 11 still on the minds of every American, it’s possible this tragedy could have some revising anti-Islamic tensions.

One’s extreme beliefs led a commissioned officer to turn his gun against his brother in what was a horrendous and treasonous action.

“It’s the fact that they can turn because of their belief system, and not all will, but some have, and it has been devastating for us,” Dupliss said.

Islam is a religion of 1.5 billion people, that is a number far too great for us to write off as a cult that preaches genocide against Americans. (Muftah Khan, president of the Muslim Student Association at FIU, issued the following statement: “American Muslims are deeply saddened for the loss of our brothers in the Fort Hood tragedy. We condemn any acts of violence, whether they are terrorist or not. The religion of Islam teaches peaceful and civil relations between human beings. This tragedy has brought American Muslims into the spotlight due to uncertainty and stereotypes.

We are more than willing to communicate with others in order to clarify the various misrepresentations of Muslims, as well as the fact that Islam does not promote these types of acts.”)

A rotten fruit has fallen from a branch with desire to taint the very tree of liberty that grew it. We are a better society than the reactionary ones that would rather wield an ideological axe to hack away the height of the tree and grind the stamp of beliefs to shreds scattered through short blades of the grass around it.

We cannot allow these fears to cloud our thoughts. Those who commit these acts want us to fear Islam. Their chief demand for their ideological warfare is for them to be a war itself.

They want us to look in the eye of every honest Muslim American in the military with anuntworth- worthy glance.

We cannot cast shadows of shame on the grave of every Muslim soldier that served and died for our country. We have to be American.
FISTFULS OF TECH!

Summing up the decade one tech advancement at a time

To sum up this decade in technology is no easy feat. So much has happened that it only serves to excite me for what we have in store for 2010 and beyond, or as it will be oddly referred to… “the 10’s.”

This list was harder than I thought, but with much deliberation and various trips to respected colleagues for advice. These events or items have changed everything for us petty humans whether we’ve noticed it or not.

10 – THE XBOX, PLAYSTATION, WI, AND THE DAWN OF NEXT GEN GAMING.

These companies and consoles have come a long way in 10 years. Not only in the advancement of the hardware but in the progression of the software as well. Developers not only used these next generation consoles to create, well, next generation games, they also created new gaming experiences. The Nintendo Wii really achieved this first, with its motion sensing technology. Though its dominance will be tested in the next decade, with Microsoft’s Project Natal and a similar project from Sony, Nintendo gets the credit for creating it.

9 – TURN-BY-TURN GPS FOR ALL!

Though GPS technology has been available for quite sometime, it began gaining mainstream in 2001. Not only is it standard on a majority of vehicles but in 2002 companies began integrating it into mobile technology, such as personal digital assistants and cellular phones.

Since then, companies like TomTom and Garmin have developed stand alone devices to compete with these phones. However, the next decade for GPS manufacturers will be an interesting one, considering they have a zero-cost competitor.

On Nov. 6, Google debuted free turn-by-turn navigation on the Motorola Droid, with plans to roll it out to other devices in the near future. But with Google’s GPS, and its propensity for openness, one can only wonder how GPS will be integrated into our lives in 2010 and beyond.

8 – THE NEW FORMAT WARS: BLU-RAY AND HIGH DEFINITION STREAMING BATTLE FOR WORLD SUPREMACY.

The HD format wars of the mid to late 00’s left HD-DVD in the dust. Blu-Ray technology, the winner, became the next evolution of DVD, featuring 1080P high-def video and sound. However its biggest hurdle comes from a company known for distributing Blu-Rays in a very unique way. Netflix has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Its online streaming service is spectacularly implemented and is proof of concept that Sony’s fight is not done yet.

Though online HD streaming via Netflix is still young, it’s expanding at a rapid pace. Its expansion to video game consoles, set-top boxes and DVD players proves this. In the next decade, Netflix, and services like it, have a good chance to knock

Radiate FM’s hip-hop director talks rhythm, rhyme, reason

Radiate FM Music Director Ryan Morejon hired Lo because she is not biased toward one type of hip-hop or any one genre.

Some of her favorite artists include, A Tribe Called Quest, Nas, Big L, The Notorious B.I.G., The Velvet Underground and The Mars Volta.

“She would do well as any director,” Morjon said. “She has a good general knowledge of every genre.”

Lo did consider having a show where she played a specific genre of music, and it was not conventional.

“I was approved to have a specialty show basically consisting of jazz and music from Africa during the ’60s and ’70s,” Lo said. “But I can’t give up my specialty show yet; it’s too soon.”

Only if one of the current hip-hop DJs leaves would Lo consider hosting a show of that variety.

Jason Kavanagh or DJ JB hosts “Supa Sounds” Monday nights, and he said he was impressed with Lo’s level of hip-hop expertise.

“Her knowledge of hip-hop is vast. You can’t judge a book by its cover,” Kavanagh said. “Lots of the people her age don’t know the stuff I play. In terms of people at the station who know hip-hop, she ranks right up there with me.”

Heartbreak fuels Mayer’s lyrically powerful album

Ladies and gentlemen, John Mayer has gotten his heart broken. Surprised? Let me sarcastically say, “Me too.” Want proof? Look no further than Battle Studies, a musical endeavor that aims to leave fans of the singer/songwriter craving for even more details about his latest breakup.

The lyrically intense Battle Studies is his most personal album to date, portraying Mayer as just a regular man who is going through the motions of a broken heart. The only difference is, he masterfully puts it into words and tune. OK, so maybe he isn’t so “regular” – but we get the point.

In Battle Studies, Mayer down-right spills beginning with the first track of the album, “Heartbreak Warfare,” in which he paints the big picture with soft guitars that set a backdrop for his breakup story. Track two, “All We Ever Do is Say Goodbye,” has Mayer reflecting on his freshly broken relationship with bittersweet words: “I loved you more than songs can say, but I can’t keep running after yesterday.” Eric Clapton-influenced guitar solos fill the song.

The track “Half of My Heart” is a soft sing-along that shows an optimistic but still cautious Mayer. The song features Taylor Swift, but barely – she only sings background vocals toward the end. The thematic track “Who Says?” has Mayer lyrically and romantically throwing caution to the wind. This folk number is yet another reflection track in which he asks himself “Who says I can’t be free from all the things I MAYER, page 8
Evelyn Lyn danced to Raveena Sapphire and a long brown wig. She wore jean shorts, black heels, and a long white Alice in Wonderland mad hatter hat, and a blue and white rider with her “pops.”

The second round, Lady Jane did another mix of songs, but wore the same outfit, which brought down her standing in the view of drag judges Jonie Spirito, Kassandra Hylton and Miss Noel. Lady Jane still danced amazingly well. Raveena Sapphire performed with “What You Waiting For?” by Stefani, and wore an elaborate outfit of a mad hatter hat, and a blue and white Alice in Wonderland dress. Raveena Sapphire lip-synced every word in the song accurately and imitated the Gwen Stefani character.

In round three, the three contestants and Lady Jane had to perform “Marmalade” (the 2001 cover version), which apparently was a surprise to them because all they seemed completely confused.

Raveena Sapphire performed quick on her feet, doing Mya’s part, and then after being directed by one of the professional drag queens, Evelyn Lyn did Pink’s part, Lady Jane Kim’s, and Ky Lexy did Christina Aguilera’s part. Raveena Sapphire again performed well, and Evelyn Lyn showed a little bit more personality but was still stiff in her movements. Lady Jane was filled with lots of energy and also took on the part of Li’l Kim accurately, and Ky Lexy also channeled Chris-tina Aguilera well even though she started off a little perplexed. That was understandable, since it was her first time performing and in any event, she was not a contestant.

After “Marmalade” they performed “Hush, Hush” by the Pussycat Dolls for fun and professional drag queens hopped on stage to join in. Minutes afterward Gemi Stone announced Raveena Sapphire runner up, and Evelyn Lyn the winner because she got the most tips from the audience.

This was a poor way of choosing the winner in my view, because it turned the event into a popularity contest instead of a talent contest. Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

Fourth album boasts stirring guitar work

 Meyer, page 8

The song that follows, “Perfectly Lonely,” reassures the listener that Mayer is not this man going through the motions of denial as he sings, “I’m perfectly lonely ‘cause I don’t belong to anyone...” This song is a jazzy-intrins track that is sure to make you want to listen again. The blues cover “Crossroads”, with guitar rhythms that twist and turn all over the track show the skills that made us turn our attention to Mayer way back when Room for Squares was released, showing talent that has only improved with each album since.

After this detour, Mayer returns with “Edit of Desires,” which is easily one of the album’s most personal tracks. His relapse song, if you may, paints the picture of a nearly desperate man who may still be clinging to those maybe-this-is-meant-to-be thoughts in the back of his head.

As fast as his desperate attempt comes, it swiftly leaves with the song “Do You Know Me?” in which he yet again reflects on his once beloved romance.

Mayer closes his album with “Friends Lovers, or Nothing.” Filled with his signature sound that takes us back to the Continuious days, his last song signs off with a message to his former lover: it is time to choose. With that, Mayer finds what we hope is closure.

John Mayer’s latest efforts push him on a scale right before Clapton’s guitar skills, right next to Tom Petty’s vocal chops, and reaching toward Bob Dylan’s songwriting level. But remember, it is only his fourth album. So for all you newly wounded single souls, grab some tissues, a journal and a pen and get ready for your battle studies.

Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.
out the big “blu” defending champ.

7 – THE DEATH OF PHYSICAL INTERACTION AT THE HANDS OF FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.

Social media has defined a large part of this decade. Facebook, Twitter and, up until a few years ago, MySpace, have transformed into services that connect users together. But, more importantly, they have redefined the way we interact.

Facebook has gone from a closed community of college students to more than 200 million users, effectively becoming a new competitor for e-mail.

Twitter has become an endless stream of information. In a world driven by information, Twitter will give you that, and that is a true definition of the power of information. If you don’t believe me, just type #IranElection in Twitter and see what you find.

6 – THE APPLE iPHONE AND iPOD TOUCH: “YES, YOU CAN TOUCH YOUR PHONE.”

You thought I was going to put this at No. 1 didn’t you?

Apple debuted the iPhone in 2007 and the world’s jaw collectively dropped. This phone was sci-fi meets reality, with a large touch screen and multi-touch technology.

Apple has advanced the iPhone since then – both in hardware and software – and, though its development platform is still closed and strictly monitored, that hasn’t stopped it from selling more than 10 million units or “inspiring” other companies to create something similar.

The iPhone really captivated the market, and was proof positive that the Apple hype machine was amazingly successful at creating, selling and marketing a major product. It was a new mobile experience, one that will get better over time.

5 – THE RISE OF ONLINE VIDEO

When YouTube was created in 2005, it became an instant platform for self-expression, education and gays getting hit in the crotch. YouTube gave birth to instant access video, something that has revolutionized learning and creativity. YouTube videos have contributed so much to society, both in entertainment and in news media, that it has really given the end user an omnipresence that could never be achieved. Whether you’re using YouTube, Viddler, or Vimeo, streaming video will leap forward in 2010.

4 – ONLINE MUSIC AND THE DEATH OF THE COMPACT DISC.

Online music services such as Amazon Music and iTunes have really changed the way we buy and listen to music. These services have become popular, instant music channels where people can legally buy tracks from their favorite artists and bands. This whole idea of “a la carte” music, or buying just a couple of tracks, was pretty revolutionary, delivering on something that has been in demand for a while. The past decade really killed the compact disc and solidified mp3 as the wave of the future.

3 – GOOGLE

Google is No. 3 because you really can’t pick just one thing they did that changed the decade. Google’s search engine is just a scratch on the surface. Google has used the Internet to compete with hardware, pushing forward the idea of cloud computing, which will play a huge role in the next 10 years. Their collection of online apps such as GMail, GoogleDocs and Google Calendar are some of the most used on the Internet. Their efforts and developers have really pushed for the advancement of the Web and, with new beta projects every day such as Chrome OS and Google Wave, Google is still innovating and still trying to take on the big players like Microsoft and Apple, using the Internet.

2 – THE APPLE iPOD

The iPod is the electronic device of the decade. Launched in 2001, the iPod is currently the No. 1 media player in the world, holding more than a 70 percent market share. The iPod has shaped the decade not only because of its popularity, but because of its strong content portal, iTunes, and a long list of accessory makers that have created everything from iPod powered stereo to Toasters with iPod docks – yes, Toasters.

Much like the iPhone, the iPod stylistically broke the mold in terms of design and will continue to do that for some time. It’s elegant, it holds attention and it changes every year.

At the end of the year, an iPod is just as much a fashion accessory as it is a powerful media player. The reason the iPod is No. 2 is because it paved the way for things like the iPod nano, and, ultimately, the iPhone. It was the beginning of a new Apple, and proof that something beautiful can be useful.

Next on Fistfuls of Tech! Find out who clinched the No. 1 spot on The Top Ten Tech Advancements of the Decade.
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Roberts leads the way in home win**

**JOHNATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

FIU won its second consecutive game of the season last Friday against North Carolina Central 83-73 at the U.S Century Bank Arena. After losing three games in blowout fashion to open the 2009-10 campaign, the Golden Panthers (2-3, 0-0 Sun-Belt) are enjoying the comforts of home.

“We want to make sure this is a tough place for teams to come and win at,” FIU coach Isiah Thomas said. “Our players are really starting to get used to playing in our building. Once we get all the fan support and everything else this is going to be a tough arena to win basketball games in.”

With the help of a balanced offense and an unselfish but stingy defense, Thomas won his second career game as a college coach.

Marvin Roberts led the Golden Panthers with 21 points and 10 rebounds, including four of rim-rafting dunks. FIU had three players in double figures besides Roberts, as Thomas kept a tight rotation of seven players against the eagles. Roberts was glad to get the crowd going with his aerial displays.

“You have to have a turning point sometimes,” Roberts said. “I try to get my team in it with a couple of dunks here and there.”

The Eagles were led by a pair of 20 plus point scoring efforts from C.J Wilkerson and Vincent Davis, but FIU pulled away with a dagger 3-pointer by Roberts with 5:06 left in the game. Roberts led the way in home win.
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FOOTBALL: UF 62, FIU 3

**STREAK IS OVER**

Golden Panthers fall short in quest for conference title

**JOEL DELGADO**
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt championship title has eluded the Golden Panthers for several seasons now, but with arguably the strongest season in FIU football history, an undefeated conference record and a 23-match winning streak, all signs pointed to FIU finally regaining the conference crown.

All of that came to a screeching halt at E.A. Diddle Arena on Saturday as the Blue Raiders stunned Coach Danjela Tomic and the Golden Panthers in a four-set match to earn the Sun Belt championship and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

“We were not the team that we are,” Tomic said. “Middle Tennessee played a great match and put pressure on us. They made us play out of character.”

Both squads came out battling in the first set, and the Panthers overcame an early deficit to tie the first set at 15 apiece, but late in the stanza the Blue Raiders would pull away to take an important 1-0 lead.

“They played good, but we didn’t show up as a team,” said Yarimar Rosa. “We couldn’t put the ball down.”

The Blue Raiders would not let up in the second set, jumping out to an 8-1 lead and although the Golden Panthers tried to close the gap, FIU could not climb back and fell into a 2-0 hole.

“I said to them after the second set ‘Where is my team?’ This wasn’t the team that won 30 games this year,” Tomic said. “Our serving wasn’t very good, the tempo of our offense wasn’t fast, our hitters weren’t playing smart… Everything went wrong.”

The Panthers would take the third set to keep their hopes alive, but the Blue Raiders would put FIU away in the fourth set to win the match and the conference title.

Jovana Bjelica led the team in kills for the match with 15, while Rosa would add 12 kills and 13 digs to the FIU effort. Natalia Valentin led the team with 39 assists while Lakovic recorded three blocks.

Despite the loss, FIU is still expected to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Panthers return home to finish the regular season on Nov. 28 against Florida A&M.

**FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0 (25-17, 25-13, 15-15)**

After a disappointing first-round exit in last year’s Sun Belt tournament, the Golden Panthers made sure that they did not repeat experience with a three-set sweep over North Texas at E.A. Diddle Arena at WKU’s campus, the host site for this year’s tournament.

The FIU offense, led by Yarimar Rosa’s 16 kills, jumped out to early leads in each to help propel the Golden Panthers over the Mean Green, forcing them to play catch-up for most of the afternoon.

“They started playing very well.”

The Florida Gators are undefeated, are ranked No. 1 in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and boast a senior Heisman Trophy hopeful as they gear up for a national title run.

The injury-riddled Golden Panthers were overwhelmed from the start, in turn losing 62-3 at UF on Nov. 21. The 59-point loss is tied for worst in the young program’s history.

The humbling loss gave FIU coach Mario Cristobal some perspective of where he sees the direction of his program going.

“I think that you look at building a program and you see what you really want to do,” he said. “You want to build a place and be like a University of Florida. When you get on a big stage like this and you see every part of it, you see the alumni, the hype, the tailgating, a beautiful building and then when you go on the field and play against elite talent it really gets you fired up to what the possibilities are of building a program. You also realize how far you have to go to reach that status.”

FIU’s cast of youthful players got a taste of